(a) the status of National Common Minimum Programme, in particular concerning "all reservation quotas, including those relating to promotions to be fulfilled in a time-bound manner"; and

(b) whether the Ministry has obtained and examined details from various Ministries with reference to filling up backlog vacancies of SCs and STs as directed by Hon'ble Prime Minister?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI) : (a) In pursuance of the National Common Minimum Programme the Government has launched a Special Recruitment Drive from August, 2004 to fill up the backlog reserved vacancies of SCs and STs in a time bound manner, both in direct recruitment and promotion quotas.

(b) Yes, Sir.

Report of World Bank

2976. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank has in its report on Reforming Public Services in India, stresed upon the need for greater political consensus on social development programmes and the empowerment of civil services, through stability of tenure and greater managerial tenures; and

(b) if so, the recommendations made in the report and Government's decision thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI) : (a) and (b) The World Bank Report titled "Reforming Public Services in India — Drawing Lessons from Success" is based on a study of certain major reform initiatives in service delivery undertaken by various States. The Report has, *inter alia*, concluded that almost all the successful cases studied involved initiatives by officers who remained in their posts for atleast three years and that the programmes that enjoyed consensus across political parties were better positioned to ward off rent-seeking behaviour by influential groups.

The governmental programmes are initially prepared by the nodal Ministries as per the subjects allotted to them in the Allocation of Business Rules, after taking into account the needs of the intended beneficiaries.

The programmes are then evaluated by the appraising agencies like the Planning Commission and the outlays required for the same are discussed in the Parliamentary Standing Committee before finally passed by the Parliament.This process ensures wide political consensus for the programmes implemented by the Government. On the question of stability of tenure, steps have already been taken to consult the State Governments for amending the All India Service Rules to provide for a minimum tenure for cadre posts and for those holding key positions.

Decline of values in public life

2977. SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Prime Minister deplored the decline of values in public life and remarked that the standard of behaviour of people in public life could be better and improved;

(b) if so, the reasons identified by Government for such decline; and

(c) the steps Government are taking to improve the standard of behaviour of people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI SURESH PACHOURI) : (a) to (c) In his speech on the occasion of release of commemorative Coin in honour of Mahatma Basaveshwara on 23rd June, 2006. The Prime Minister observed that there has been a decline of values in our public life and expressed the feeling that the standard of behaviour of people in public life can certainly be better. He emphasised that the moral and social crisis can be effectively addressed if all of us follow Basaveshwara's example of rectitude and probity in public life.The Prime Minister's observations were in the nature of exhortations to the people and the civil society and have to be taken in that spirit.

Washing allowance to employees

2978. SHRI S. P. M. SYED KHAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the award of the Board of Arbitration for revision of washing Allowance to Group 'C' and 'D' employees has still not been implemented;

(b) if so, the reasons for the delay in implementing the award of the Board of Arbitration in the matter;